

Dear Senators

**I am in support of SB 397 because of the following reasoning.**

I was glad to see that the wolf population was down 4% on the latest state wide wolf population count but it left me a little confused. After speaking with some MTFWP personnel it then made more sense. In region 2 where I am familiar with I was sure the population had not gone down and according to the FWP employee I was speaking with that is correct and in region 1 the population has actually increased. What has happened that in some areas where the terrain and timber density is such that it creates a situation where aerial control is much more effective. Also livestock depredation has occurred which allows Wildlife Services to do what they are so proficient at therefore causing the state wolf population to decline.

This absolutely creates a situation where in some hunting districts in region 1 and 2 where SB 397 would make perfect sense. These regions are also where big game numbers have been plummeting and expanded predator control is desperately needed. To sight and example in hunting district 202 is a herd of elk called the lupine herd what historically has been at around 400 head and as of last year numbered 60 (FWP data) and when this years survey is done for the past year it will have declined again. Wolves are of course prolific in this H.D. and fresh tracks and howling can be heard daily.

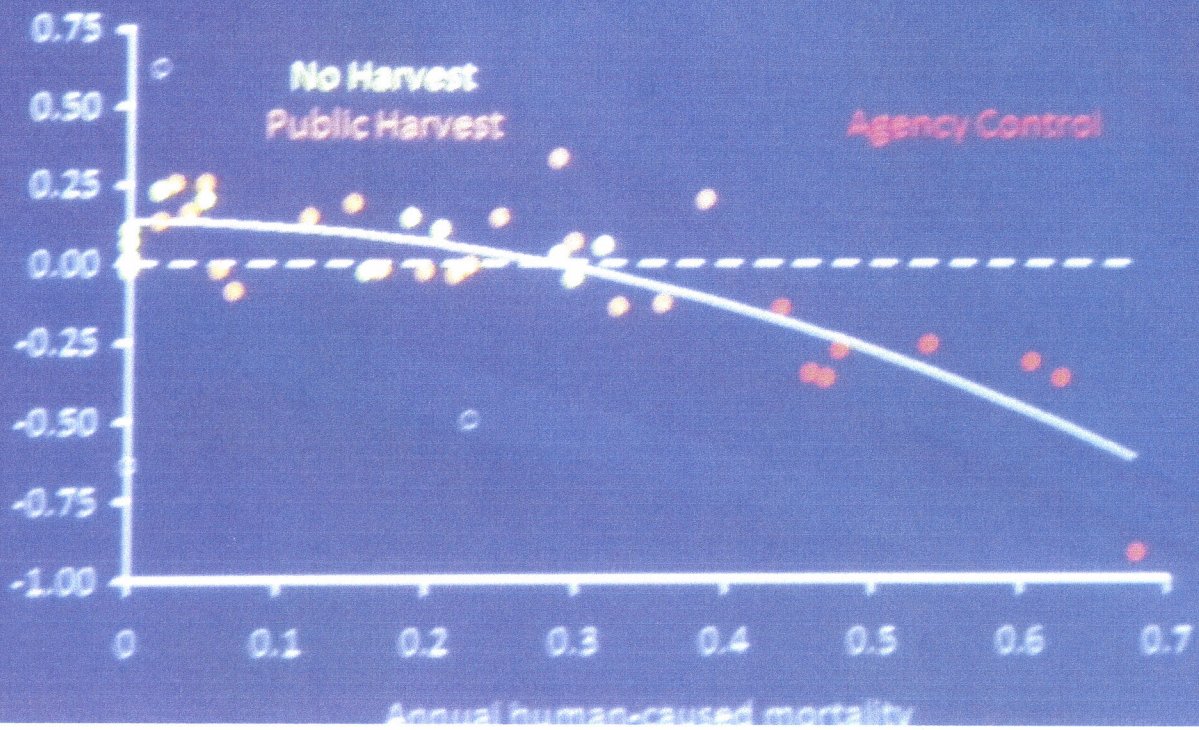
This scenario that I have discussed above also fits exactly to what Dr. Layne Adams portrayed at a wolf seminar I attended at the U.M. last fall. Dr. Adams who is a wolf biologist from Alaska and has studied wolves for decades on wolf prey relationships and wolf populations studies. Dr Adams's data shows that for wolves to maintain their population at a static level you must have a take of 40% of the wolf population every year. Dr. Adams studies also show that the take from hunters and trappers with much more liberal seasons then we have generally only have a effect on the wolf population of 10% to 15% and the only way in Alaska they can achieve the 40% or greater to preserve game populations is with aerial control.

This also leads me to a conclusion very disturbing to me that even with the implementation of SB 397 the big game herds that mean so much to me, my fellow sportsman and other outdoor enthusiasts may never recover to the point before wolves were forced on us.

Paul Rossignol  
P.O. Box 23  
Lolo Mt.



# **Wolf Population Growth vs. Human-caused Mortality** (Adams et al. 2008; based on 24 North American studies 1979-2006)



## **ALASKA WOLF HARVEST** **1975 - 2010**

